

# Traditional & Folk Songs with lyrics & midi music

[www.traditionalmusic.co.uk](http://www.traditionalmusic.co.uk)

## Ivor

Ivor

(Tune: The Girl I Left Behind Me)

Learned from the singing of Ewan MacColl

Oh, me name is Mike, or Mick, if you like  
And me second name is O'Reilly;  
And I'm doing me best with a two-year stretch  
On account of a judge named Smiley.

I know all the nobs of the flash-boys mobs,  
I'm an old sky-rocket diver;  
But these were mugs of Wormwood-Scrubbs,  
Compared with a bloke named Ivor.

He'd a juicy smile and a slick profile  
And hair like a Soho waiter.  
This ancient boy was the pride and joy  
Of the smart London the-ater.

This West-End star had a Rolls-Royce car,  
And Jack Nowles was his driver  
And the dames would sigh when this car flashed by  
For they knew that it carried Ivor.

Now, Ivor saw that the worst of the war  
Was the petrol-rationing system  
So he said to Nowles, "We must keep the Rolls  
And think of a plan to twist 'em."

This three-star hit, he was doing his bit  
For the democratic nations,  
So he fixed up a scheme with a gallery queen  
To evade the regulations.

Well, it worked O.K. until one day  
The cops asked him some questions.  
And they yanked our sport, under police escort  
To the London, Bow Street sessions.

His character there was stripped as bare  
As the dame they called Godiva,  
And the judge, with a nod, said, "A month in quod  
Will help to chasten Ivor."

So...they've fixed up a cell like a posh hotel  
For this scribe of tony drama.  
And he strolls through the grounds in a dressing gown

And a pair of silk pajamas.

He lives like a duke and he has his own cook,

And he don't eat skilly neither,

For the governor of this lousy stir

Has a soft spot for old Ivor.

So, if you're inclined to turn to crime,

Just listen to my sons, son,

Just become a star with a Rolls-Royce car

And then you can't go wrong, son.

Who cares if a lag does a 10-years drag

If that lad ain't got a stiver,

For you surely know any mug with dough

Can do as well as Ivor.

Recorded on Bad Lads and Hard Cases, MacColl, Riverside LP 1957

AJS